

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 DHA-02 ORM-01

AID-05 SAM-01 OMB-01 OPR-02 A-01 OC-05 CCO-00 SCCT-01

SY-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 /096 W
----- 067077

O R 151003Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3799

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0912

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: SHOOTING DIES DOWN: POLITICAL CONTACTS BEGIN

1. SHOOTING DIED DOWN DURING THE NIGHT OF JULY 14/15. BY THE MORNING OF JULY 15 FNLA HEADQUARTERS ON AVENIDA BRAZIL WAS EMPTY AND MPLA TROOPS SURROUNDED THE BUILDING UNTIL 9:30 A.M. FNLA STILL HAS THE FORTRESS NORTH OF THE CITY AND A GARRISON IN THE AREA OF THE CUCA BREWERY, ALSO NORTH OF TOWN, BUT CLOSER IN. AT 1000 HOURS ON JULY 15 WE RECEIVED A REPORT THAT MPLA FORCES WERE ATTACKING IT'S GARRISON.

2. SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF FNLA TROOPS SURRENDERED THEIR ARMS TO PORTUGUESE PATROLS ON JULY 14 AND EITHER SOUGHT PROTECTION OR TURNED OVER THEIR WEAPONS AND FLED. THE PORTUGUESE PATROLLED
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MUCH MORE AGGRESSIVELY THE NIGHT OF JULY 14 TO PREVENT LOOTING,

AND, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, TO KEEP THE OPPOSING FORCES APART.

3. THE CITY TOOK ON ITS NORMAL BUSY ASPECT THE MORNING OF JULY 14. BUSES STILL WERE NOT RUNNING, BUT BLACKS STREAMED OUT OF THE GHETTOS TO WALK TO WORK. CARS AND TRUCKS WERE SCURRYING THROUGHOUT THE CITY; GAS STATIONS WERE OPEN BUT SOME PANIC BUYING WAS STILL EVIDENT. THE CENTRAL MARKET OPENED WITH A REDUCED SUPPLY OF PRODUCE, BUT FOODSTUFFS WERE AVAILABLE. MANY STORES HAD STILL NOT OPENED BY EIGHT IN THE MORNING, BUT ENOUGH SHUTTERS WERE UP TO END THE SEIGE ATMOSPHERE THAT PREVAILED DURING THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER MELO ANTUNES ARRIVED JULY 14 AND HE AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAVE SET TO WORK TO TRY AND ARRANGE CONVERSATIONS AMONG THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. JONAS SAVIMBI OF UNITA DID NOT COME TO LUANDA ON JULY 14. AGOSTINHO NETO OF MPLA IS STILL UNAVAILABLE, BUT THE PORTUGUESE TELL ME THEY HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE MPLA LEADERSHIP AND EXPECT TO BE IN TOUCH WITH NETO SHORTLY. SOME OF THE FNLA POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IS STILL IN LUANDA AND HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO TALK. SOME SOURCES ARE CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT THE KEY LEADERS HAVE FLED.

5. THE ATTITUDE OF MOST LUANDENSES IS ONE OF RELIEF THAT THIS LATEST CATCLYSM IS OVER AND THAT THE FNLA IS NO LONGER REPRESENTS A THREAT TO THE PEACE OF THE CITY. THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION IS PRO MPLA AND OVER THE MONTHS OF PERIODIC OUTBRUSTS OF VIOLENCE FNLA HAS COME MORE AND MORE TO BE THOUGHT OF AS AN OCCUPYING ARMY. MPLA PROPAGANDA AND WHISPERING CAMPAIGNS ABOUT THE ATROCITY-COMMITTING FNLA CONTRIBUTED TO THE HATED WITH WHICH IT IS VIEWED HERE. THE FNLA LEADERSHIP AND SOLDIERS DID LITTLE TO DISPEL THE NOTION THEY ARE ARROGANT, STUPID AND BRUTAL. THE ORGANIZATION HAS PAID VIRTUALLY NO BILLS SINCE ITS ARRIVAL IN TOWN MANY MONTHS AGO. THE OWNER OF THE BUILDING THAT HOUSED THE FNLA MILITARY HEADQUARTERS SAID THEY OWED HIM 300,000 ESCUDOS (ABOUT 12,000 DOLLARS AT THE OFFICIAL RATE OF EXCHANGE). THE HOTEL TROPICO HAS NOT BEEN PAID, NOR HAVE MANY SUPPLIERS. THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP HAS EVINCED AN INNORDINATE INTEREST IN CARS, MONEY AND LOOSE WOMEN. EVER SINCE THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WAS ABLE TO GRASP THE CONCEPT OF PER DIEM HE HAS BEEN IN PERPETUAL MOTION AROUND THE COUNTRY AND ABROAD. THE CIRCUMSTANCIAL

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EVIDENCE IN CONNECTION WITH MINISTER OF HEALTH ABRIGADA'S ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT OF FUNDS DESTINED FOR REFUGEES IS SUCH THAT MANY REASONABLE MEN ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE HE IS GUILTY. PART OF THE EVIDENCE IS A LACK OF ANY REFUGEE PROGRAM. FNLA TROOPS, FOR THEIR PART, HAVE ROBBED, BEATEN AND HARRASSED THE POPULATION IN LUANDA. TO A MAN THE BACONGO ARE EXCITABLE AND IRRATIONAL WHEN ANGERED, WHICH SEEMS TO BE JUST ABOUT ALL THE TIME. THEIR LACK OF PREPARATION, INTEREST IN SELF OVER PARTY AND

THEIR INNATE TENDENCY TO RANT AND RAVE HAVE ALL CONSPIRED TO
MAKE THEM TARGETS OF SCORN AND ANGER.
KILLORAN

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